

Benjamin Higgins – Eastham Land Records 1650-1745

Benjamin Higgins was born in Plymouth in 1640. He was the second son of Richard Higgins and his first wife Lydia Chandler and the younger brother of Jonathan Higgins. His family was one of the seven original families who settled in Nauset in 1644.

Benjamin married Lydia Bangs in 1661 in Eastham. They had at least nine children. Benjamin's family and Jonathan's family remained in Eastham while their father moved to New Jersey by 1672. Benjamin served in many positions including constable, selectman, juror and grand juryman. Most likely Benjamin and Jonathan and their wives are buried in unmarked graves in Eastham Cove Burying Ground.

1669

Richard Higgins gave his son Benjamin twenty acres of upland at Pochet next to land of Job Cole and Jonathan Sparrow. PDF A198, M110.

Richard Higgins gave his son Benjamin two acres of marsh and meadow at the mouth of Rock Harbor. Richard had purchased this land from Manasseth Kempton. The land was previously owned by William Bradford. PDF A198, M110.

1672

Benjamin Higgins purchased from his father for nine pounds meadow and sedge ground at Little Billingsgate next to the beach and between Norman's Creek and Coggen's Creek. Richard Higgins was then living in New Jersey. PDF A200, M113, S34.

1674

Benjamin Higgins was given temporary permission to cut grass at the mouth of Rock Harbor between the meadows of John Bradford and Steven Atwood. PDF A199, M111.

Granted to Benjamin Higgins ten acres of upland at Pochet adjoining his other land and next to land of Job Cole. Bounds were indicated by marked trees. PDF A199, M112, S36.

1677

The meadow at the mouth of Rock harbor where Benjamin Higgins was given permission in 1674 to cut grass now was granted to him and his heirs to have and to hold forever. PDF A199, M112, S36.

1678

Benjamin Higgins and Steven Atwood settled a boundary dispute between them concerning their meadows at Boat Meadow. The mutually agreed boundary between them was indicated by marked trees. PDF A199, M112, S44.

1679

Joseph Snow swore that he witnessed Richard Higgins' sale of land to Benjamin Higgins in 1672. PDF A200.

1681

Benjamin Higgins was appointed to a four man committee to inspect all fences protecting corn fields within the Town. All such fences had to be in good condition by the first day in May. A fine of twenty shillings was imposed on every person with defective corn field fences. PDF P43, P44.

1682

Granted to Benjamin Higgins a small addition of land adjoining his twenty acres at Pochet. The added land was seven or eight paces off the chimney end of his dwelling house. PDF A171, M68, M69.

1690

Granted to Benjamin Higgins three acres of land between his southerly corner bound and the area known as Bishop's Butter Hole. Bound were indicated by stones set in the ground marked B H. This most likely was an addition to his land at Pochet. PDF A198, M111.

1703

Granted to Benjamin Higgins about three acres of meadow on the Great Flat at the Town Flats. The lot was next to a lot owned by the heirs of Daniel Cole, William Mirrick and Ralph Smith and a lot owned by Thomas Doane and John Atkins. PDF A197, M109.

1711

Granted to Benjamin Higgins, Edmond Freeman, Isaac Freeman, Ebenezer Freeman, Israel Doane and Nathaniel Mayo one of the twenty-four lots laid out at Great Island at Billingsgate. This lot was about seven acres based on the partial dimensions given in the record and the size of adjoining lots. PDF T87.

Granted to Benjamin Higgins and his heirs about four acres on the northerly side of the way that goes to James Maker's land in the range of the Sipson purchase. PDF T99.

Granted to Benjamin Higgins and his heirs a wood lot of about six acres on the northerly side of Samuel Knowles wood lot. No other information was given concerning the location of the Higgins or Knowles wood lots. PDF T99.

1715

Granted to Benjamin Higgins and his heirs three small parcels of land near his dwelling house. The first parcel was about two acres on the northwest side of his house lot. The second parcel was about two and one-half acres on the east side of his house lot. The third parcel was about two acres on the north side of his house lot. PDF T193, T194.

Granted to Benjamin Higgins and his heirs a wood lot of about four acres at Billingsgate on the north side of Herring River Meadow and on the southwest side of the way that goes to Thomas Mulford's. PDF T298.

1741

Granted to Benjamin Higgins and his heirs about four acres at the head of Namskaket. PDF T160.

Granted to Benjamin Higgins and his heirs about six acres at Namskaket. Bounds were indicated by stones marked with "H". PDF T160.

1746

Granted to Benjamin Higgins, Edward Bangs and Job Cole, deceased, and their heirs about three and one-half acres in the Common Meadow at the Great Flat. PDF T350.

The Eastham land owned by Benjamin Higgins or granted in his name to his heirs described in these records amounts to about eighty acres. By 1745 not counting his father thirty-two more Higgins received Eastham land grants.